year 1992-93 and findings were circulated to all the Divisional Offices in February, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CBI has also made investi gation and has stumbled upon documents which suggest that LIC racket has been going on in Rajasthan and other divisions of LIC in the country;

(d) if so, the details and mode of operation evolved in cheating LIC; and

(e) the action taken against those in-volved and steps proposed to control and eliminate such evils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India have reported that they conducted a Study of 'zero duration lapses for new policies issued during the year 1992-93 in 22 out of 100 Divisions in the country. The main conclusions drawn from the study are that the incidence of lapsation of policies is comparatively high for policies with small sum assured ranging between Rs. 5000 and 10000; the lapsation of policies decreases with increase in the age of policy holder; lapse is more under policies with terms of 30 years or more; the percentage of lapsation is greater in rural areas and lapsation is higher in low cost policies.

(c) to (e) LIC have reported that the CBI enquiries in some cases have revealed that policies were booked by the agents in the name of non-existant State Government employees under the salary saving scheme and reversal action not being taken in case of cheques dishonoured etc. Action against concerned officials/agents can be taken by the LIC only after investigations are completed.

**Power Scenario in the Country**

253. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will ! the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power scenario in the country in the near future will be grim as a consequence of many mega power pro jects involving foreign investment mired in controversies;

(b) what contingency plans Government propose to put into operation to meet the increasing demand for power with no appreciable improvement in the existing power generation facilities;

(c) the estimated decrease in power generation in hydel sector as a result of failure of monsoon in hydel reservoir areas; and

(d) whether Government would enforce stringent measures for energy conservation and to prevent power theft and abnormal transmission losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Against the revised target for capacity addition of 20729.7 MW during the 8th Five Year Plan, 12674.5 MW has already been added upto 31st March, 1995. This has helped in meeting the power shortage to a great extent. The hydel power generation for the year 1994-95 was 19.6% more than the target and the same for the period April to June, 1995 was 7.1% more than the target.

(d) The theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence under the provisions of Section 39 of the Indian electricity Act, 1910. Comprehensive guidelines have been issued for enabling the power utilities to take corrective measures in a planned way for reducing the Trans- misison & Distribution losses. An incentive scheme in the form of cash awards/ shields has been introduced by the Government to motivate the state Electricity S Boards and their employees to reduce

T&D losses. The measures taken by the Government for achieving energy conservation include intensive study of demand side management, energy audit, studies for reduction of secondary fuel oil consumption in Thermal Power Stations, cogneration and effective media com-paign to increase public awareness.

**Unutilised External Credit**

254. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount in rupees as well as in US dollers, of external credit offered to the country at various periods that is lying unutilised and the reasons for the non-utilisation;

(b) the interest and commitment charges paid out an account of such unutilised foreign aid in each of the years since 1991-92; and

(c) measures proposed to bring down the level of such non-utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The undisbursed amount of foreign assistance during the last three years is as follows:

Rs. Crore/US$ Million

| | 31.3.93 | | 31.3.94 | | 31.3.95 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rupees | US$ | Rupees | US$ | Rupees | USS |
| Govt. Loans | 74587.27 | 23987.287 | 46002.56 | 14716.110 | 42132.39 | 13396.626 |
| Non-Govt. | 5924.57 | 1911.132 | 5887.17 | 1883.292 | 6379.57 | 2028.480 |
| Loans. Grants | 6247.77 | 2009.285 | 7976.03 | 2551.513 | 6811.58 | 2165.844 |
| | 86777.61 | 27907.704 | 59865.76 | 19150.915 | 55323.54 | 17590.951 |

Exchange Rate as at the end of March US$ — Rs. 31.0945 31.2600 31.4500

Most of the aid is project tied. Thi reasons for unutilised aid can be traced to time profile of projects which is usually 5 to 7 years, exchange rate fluctuations, inadequate provision of counterpart funds, delays in land acquisition, procurement and" contracting delays, startup delays and other project specific issues.

(b) No interest in being paid on unutilised foreign aid. However, the details of commitment charges paid during these years on account of Govt, loans are as under

| Year | Commitment Charges Paid (Rs. Crore) |
|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 59.40 |
| 1992-93 | 68.37 |
| 1993-94 | 69.70 |
| 1994-95 | 59.63 |

(c) Ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, release of ACA as 100% additionality, advance release ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamilining of procurement procedures, disintermediat-ing on flow of external aid to Central PSU's, Portfolio Rationalisation and setting up of Project Management Unit in-the Department of Economic Affairs are some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilisation.